



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

***Raised Bill No. 5796***

LCO No. 371

\*00371\_\_\_\_\_HS\_\*

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:  
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE FEDERAL SPECIFIED  
LOW-INCOME MEDICARE BENEFICIARY PROGRAM AND THE  
QUALIFYING INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 17b-492 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2008*):

4 (f) The Commissioner of Social Services may be the authorized  
5 representative of a ConnPACE applicant or recipient for purposes of:  
6 [enrolling] (1) Enrolling in a Medicare Part D plan, [or] (2) submitting  
7 an application to the Social Security Administration to obtain the low  
8 income subsidy benefit provided under Public Law 108-173, the  
9 Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of  
10 2003, or (3) facilitating the enrollment in a Medicare savings program  
11 of any such applicant or recipient who elects to participate in said  
12 program. The applicant or recipient shall have the opportunity to  
13 select a Medicare Part D plan and shall be notified of such opportunity  
14 by the commissioner. The applicant or recipient, prior to selecting a  
15 Medicare Part D plan, shall have the opportunity to consult with the

16 commissioner, or the commissioner's designated agent, concerning the  
 17 selection of a Medicare Part D plan that best meets the prescription  
 18 drug needs of such applicant or recipient. In the event that such  
 19 applicant or recipient does not select a Medicare Part D plan within a  
 20 reasonable period of time, as determined by the commissioner, the  
 21 commissioner shall enroll the applicant or recipient in a Medicare Part  
 22 D plan designated by the commissioner in accordance with said act.  
 23 The applicant or recipient shall appoint the commissioner as such  
 24 applicant's or recipient's representative for the purpose of appealing  
 25 any denial of Medicare Part D benefits and for any other purpose  
 26 allowed under said act and deemed necessary by the commissioner.

27 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) Beginning with the fiscal year  
 28 ending June 30, 2009, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the  
 29 Commissioner of Social Services shall increase income disregards used  
 30 to determine eligibility by the Department of Social Services for the  
 31 federal Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary and the Qualifying  
 32 Individual Programs, administered in accordance with the provisions  
 33 of 42 USC 1396d(p), by an amount that equalizes the income levels  
 34 used to determine eligibility for said programs with income levels  
 35 used to determine eligibility for the ConnPACE program under  
 36 subsection (a) of section 17b-492 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	17b-492(f)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To enable more seniors to qualify for the Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary Program and the Qualifying Individual Program, thereby entitling such persons to the low-income subsidies available under the Medicare Part D program which in turn will reduce ConnPACE program expenditures by maximizing the number of ConnPACE enrollees who obtain federal low-income subsidies.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*